



**TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA
ME TE KOMITI MATUA**
DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Māori Engagement: Summary Report

**NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT ON TAMARIKI TŪ, TAMARIKI ORA
NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST CHILD AND YOUTH WELLBEING STRATEGY**

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

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Introduction

Background to the Māori engagement hui

This report provides a summary of the views and major themes raised by participants at a series of regional Māori hui on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy) in late 2018 and early 2019.

The Child Poverty Reduction Bill included a minimum legislative requirement for consultation with iwi and Māori. The Bill required the Minister responsible for the Strategy to consult with “any representatives of iwi, and Māori organisations, that the responsible Minister considers appropriate.”

Officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) worked with officials from Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Arawhiti – the Office for Māori Crown Relations, and the Child Wellbeing Strategy Reference Group (a group consisting of several experts set up to advise officials) to tailor engagements to the needs of Māori.

The primary engagement with Māori occurred through eleven regional hui hosted by Te Puni Kōkiri. The regional Māori hui were held in Gisborne, Hastings, Rotorua, Hamilton, Dunedin, Christchurch, Auckland, New Plymouth, Porirua, and Nelson from November to December 2018. One further hui was held in Kaitia in January 2019. See Appendix A for more detailed information on the date, time and location of each hui.

Invitations to the hui were sent to a wide range of iwi and Māori organisations, including many non-government service providers operating in the children and youth sectors and other social sectors. In addition, Te Puni Kōkiri utilised its local networks to extend invitations to relevant groups and individuals with an interest in this kaupapa.

Format of the Māori engagement hui

The hui were facilitated by Mahanga Maru with the support of Anaru Mill. Most hui were attended by Geoff Short, Executive Director, Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction, DPMC, and another member of the DPMC Child Wellbeing Unit. Mr Short or another DPMC official gave a presentation at each hui on the background, content and key questions in relation to the Child Poverty Reduction Bill and the proposed outcomes framework for the Strategy (attached as Appendix B). Supporting material was also handed out at each hui and the participants were invited to make further and more detailed submissions if they wished.

Between 10-40 people attended each of the hui, which allowed the hui to be run as small to medium-sized workshops in most locations. The engagement approach was geared around informing the representatives that attended about the Strategy under development, with an invitation for feedback. This was followed by an open exchange of ideas about what the representatives attending considered would make a difference for children and young people in their area.

The format of most hui was as follows:

- Mihi whakatau or pōwhiri – Mahanga Maru
- Whakawhanaungatanga – All participants
- Introduction and background – Mahanga Maru
- Presentation – DPMC
- Whakawhitiwhiti kōrero/discussion

Structure of this report

The first section of this report presents analysis of the common themes and ideas raised across all the hui. This section is divided into three parts: common themes on what the Strategy needs to contain, common themes on what the Strategy needs to do, and ideas for improving the wellbeing of children and young people. The second section of the report contains a record of the discussion from each of the hui, along with an indication of the hui participants.

Summary of common themes and ideas

The themes and ideas identified in this section are those raised by participants at multiple hui.

Common themes on what the Strategy needs to contain

Whānau need to be central to the outcomes framework and the Strategy

At nearly all the hui participants emphasised the importance of whānau. Improving the wellbeing of whānau was seen as essential to improving the wellbeing of children and young people. There was a lot of support for a whānau-centred approach to all parts of the outcomes framework and the Strategy. The Whānau Ora programme – which brings together the work of different government agencies – was identified as a model to follow to better integrate whānau into the Strategy.

People also spoke of the impact of structural and societal changes on whānau, which in turn impact on children and young people. These included parenting skills not being valued any more, the impact of technology on family time, the importance of male role models, and the need for employers to be more family focused.

“If whānau are thriving, tamariki will thrive – the reverse doesn’t necessarily hold.”
[New Plymouth]

The Treaty should be at the heart of the outcomes framework and the Strategy

We heard various comments about how the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) needs to be an empowering part of the Strategy to make a real difference for Māori. At many hui people told us that the outcomes framework needs to better reflect the Treaty and the Treaty principles – they could not see how the proposed framework’s principle about the Treaty and Māori-Crown partnership applied to the outcomes or how it would be translated into action.

At most hui people raised issues about the Treaty and its implications for the relationship between Māori and the Crown. Most commonly this was expressed as a desire for Māori to have the option of accessing Māori services – Māori services for Māori people – regardless of where they lived. This was also expressed in the notion that because of the Treaty relationship the Crown should not treat iwi as simply another provider of services.

“Lots of people want to change the world for us, but they don’t want to do it with us, or beside us. There is a lack of credibility, trust, and acknowledgement for Māori knowledge. The Treaty is not being respected.” [Christchurch]

Equity should be a clear focus of the outcomes framework and the Strategy

People raised the importance of equity for tamariki Māori and their whānau. Equity was most often raised in the context of resourcing: of ensuring equity of resources for Māori providers and services relative to government providers. It was also mentioned in the context of tamariki Māori needing greater priority and visibility in the outcomes framework, as the framework’s universal approach risks overlooking groups with greater need.

Issues of identity are important for the outcomes framework and the Strategy

At the hui attendees identified a range of issues relating to identity, particularly Māori identity, that needed greater attention in the outcomes framework and the Strategy. People noted the importance of tamariki Māori having a strong identity and connection to their culture and whakapapa, and the need for greater support and services for those not connected to their hapū and iwi.

The absence of spirituality from the outcomes framework was raised on several occasions, with people noting its importance to wellbeing and to Te Ao Māori. It was also remarked that sexuality and its link to identity was missing from the framework.

“Tamariki are born into a mainstream experience so the cultural and spiritual aspects of being Māori are not valued and don’t influence their choices.” [Wellington]

Common themes on what the Strategy needs to do

The Strategy should unite government activities to drive real change

We heard repeatedly that the Strategy has to produce real and tangible change. Concerns were raised about whānau losing hope because government systems take too long to change, or seem to be resistant to really taking on the required changes.

People hoped the Strategy could be a means to break down government silos: to join up government agencies and make them more accountable. They stated that too often individuals and whānau are passed between government agencies and given contradictory messages. Instead, they suggested government should operate as a single service – ‘one government with one goal’ – so that there is no wrong door for people to enter to access the services they need.

It’s too difficult for whānau to improve because of the many hoops that they have to jump through to fit Government criteria. They then give up hope. [Gisborne]

Service providers also expressed a desire for government agencies to be more consistent and efficient when contracting services. They noted that at the moment providers can have multiple contracts with different agencies and find themselves having to repeatedly report the same information in slightly different ways.

The Strategy needs to empower communities

Attendees at most hui called for the Strategy to empower transformative community leadership, by devolving resources and decisions or through partnering arrangements. There was a desire for ground-up transformation, rather than another top-down programme or simply increased service provision.

There were general calls for government to devolve funding and decision-making to iwi, hapū, and whānau. Some speakers also emphasised the importance of money and resources being

provided directly at the whānau level, as they thought iwi funding did not always get down to where it was most needed.

A related concern was ensuring certainty and equity of resources for Māori community providers. These providers were seen as being able to reach people more effectively than government providers. People stated that current funding for community providers is insufficient for them to offer comparable salaries to government providers, resulting in key community workers leaving to work for the large institutional service providers. In particular, at two hui pay equity between Māori community social workers and government social workers was identified as a significant issue.

The Strategy needs to reduce poverty and ensure everyone has the basics

Participants at many hui spoke of the importance and urgency of government focusing its immediate efforts on reducing poverty and ensuring people have what they need in terms of warmth, food and shelter. They noted that having people struggling just to get by makes it harder to address deeper or longer-term issues.

“Government is focused on making New Zealand the best place in the world when locally crime is high, abuse is a lived experience for many, and children don’t have lunch shoes or somewhere safe to sleep.” [Rotorua]

Difficulty accessing quality and affordable housing was identified as negatively impacting on wellbeing and contributing to poverty and health problems. People talked of emergency and social housing being in short supply in several regions, and being further stretched by new families arriving from other places as housing becomes more unaffordable. Housing initiatives by central and local government were seen as failing to reach those most in need.

Access to quality and affordable food was another commonly raised issue. People stated that healthy food is too expensive and unhealthy food too cheap and too easily available.

Institutional racism is a reality and a systemic barrier

We heard that whānau are confronted by racism and that this remains a barrier to progress on child poverty and child wellbeing. In most instances people talked about bias and racism within the systems and structures of government. It was felt this leads to an inequitable approach to policy development, planning, and funding across government ministries. It also risks causing whānau to fail to engage with government services. People talked of institutional racism in government systems leading to double standards in the expectations and reporting requirements applied to Māori providers compared to mainstream providers.

Discussion around racism was also linked to the importance of the Treaty and its place within government. We heard that the Treaty should be at the centre of every policy.

*Unconscious bias and institutional racism is an issue in the system. Decolonisation needs to be done at a system level to support whānau at a grass roots level.
[Wellington]*

Drugs and alcohol need to be addressed through the Strategy

At several hui people identified substance abuse as having a significant negative impact on the wellbeing of communities, whānau, and individuals. In several regions the impacts of drugs, particularly methamphetamine, have led to grandparents having to parent their mokopuna. People stated that services in this area were inadequate – both in terms of supporting parents to stop using drugs, and supporting grandparents (or other whānau members) who are caring for tamariki. Alcohol was also identified as a barrier to wellbeing in communities, and also an issue for which support services (such as for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder) were inadequate.

The importance of the first 1,000 days

At several hui support was expressed for the concept of supporting the best development for children in their ‘first 1,000 days’ (through pregnancy and up to around two years of age), and for its inclusion as a priority focus area in the outcomes framework. People said the health system should move resources to the first 1,000 days of the life course, rather than the last 1,000 days. Others noted that many children in years to come would have Māori whakapapa, so government services, including the mental health and disability systems, need to accommodate this and better support new mothers and whānau.

Ideas for improving the wellbeing of children and young people

Schools and marae should be used as community hubs for services to tamariki and whānau

Using schools and/or marae as ‘community hubs’ to help drive the Strategy and to deliver services and provide support for tamariki and their whānau was an idea raised at multiple hui. Both schools and marae were identified as holding a central place in communities throughout New Zealand. Centralising government services in such community locations would save people from having to travel to multiple sites for appointments with multiple agencies. People suggested services such as counselling, dental clinics, and employment and financial services could be based in community hubs in schools or marae.

There are 147,000 Māori in Auckland and we have 38 marae in south Auckland. We can use the marae more effectively to help whānau.

Entitlements could be applied to and travel with tamariki and rangatahi

We heard that government could make entitlements to its services more accessible for children and young people. It was suggested that advocates or navigators could help organise government entitlements for an individual child or young person from across different parts of government (such as education, welfare, and health). Such entitlements could potentially follow the individual.

Older New Zealanders are an untapped resource to help tamariki and rangatahi

At several hui people suggested the potential role older New Zealanders could play in achieving the Strategy’s vision: that the Strategy could be viewed as a challenge to older generations to think about how they can invest in and support the younger generations.

People also said the Strategy could be a challenge to wider society to think about how to ensure the views, values, knowledge and experience of older people can be passed on to children and young people.

“Do we need to talk about how older New Zealanders invest in and support the younger generations? What are older New Zealanders prepared to do to make the vision happen?” [Gisborne]

Government could draw on relevant overseas models for reducing poverty

At a few hui people suggested there are relevant international examples, in particular from Scandinavian countries, that the government could draw on to reduce child poverty. The Scandinavian model of integrating different generations in housing developments was an example raised of something New Zealand could follow.

Record of discussion from each hui

1. Gisborne

Participants at this hui included representatives from Hauora Tairāwhiti, TPH Children's Team (Oranga Tamariki), Te Hapara Family Services, Anglican Care Waiapu, Allied Health, Hauora Pediatrician, E Tū Māia, Te Aka Ora, Turanga Ararau Youth Service, Gisborne District Council, Eastern Community Trust, Ka Pai Kaiti, Supergrans Tairāwhiti, Manaaki Tairāwhiti, and Māori Women's Welfare League.

Addiction / Meth is a major barrier in low socio-economic communities

- We're losing our kids – CYFS is taking kids because their parents are hooked on meth.
- There isn't enough support and services for addiction. There are 20 whānau a week in Kaiti looking for support. They need access to addiction services.
- We've told group after group from government about what we need – we're telling the same story again and again. This is an opportunity to really do something.
- Families are stressed because of housing, addiction, family violence, trauma. Stress leads to poor decision-making and worse outcomes.

Pokies / Gambling

- Government has double standards as it doesn't do enough through regulation to discourage whānau from pokies.
- There is a direct link between pokies and child poverty.

Responsive to iwi and hapū

- How will the Strategy reflect/accommodate the different identities of iwi and hapū, and of different regions?
- The Strategy should be about connecting all different iwi, Māori and other groups into the collective vision and the work need to achieve it.

Whānau members who are beneficiaries/receive financial support should be empowered to help themselves and supported by government to contribute to their communities

- Beneficiaries like to have something to do that gives back to the community.
- Government needs to look at ways to help beneficiaries meaningfully contribute to their communities.
- Housing New Zealand should have vegetable gardens for tenants.

Older New Zealanders are an untapped resource to help tamariki and rangatahi

- Programmes like Supergrans run cooking and food preparation training that provide real benefits to whānau.
- Do we need to talk about how older New Zealanders invest in and support the younger generations? What are older New Zealanders prepared to do to make the vision happen?

There are relevant overseas models for reducing poverty that the government could draw from (e.g. the Nordic welfare model)

- The Scandinavian model of integrating different generations in housing developments is

something New Zealand could follow.

The strategy needs to include elements to deal with crime, gangs and safety because these are major risk factors for the wellbeing on tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau

- Crime, gangs and safety are big issues for children and young people.

Access to quality housing is a major contributor to wellbeing

- Home is key. Kids need a place to call home (whether it's their actual house, or a marae, community place, etc).
- Housing: there's a shortage of social housing in Gisborne, and this is put under further stress by new families arriving here from other regions.
- Whānau need housing. There's not enough emergency housing. Deprivation and over-crowding cause health issues.

The health system needs to prioritise support for new mothers

- Home: the pregnant mother is the first home. And breast feeding is the first food. "First home. First Food."
- Support needs to start even before conception e.g. prevent and treat alcohol and drug use.

Programmes need to be developed and delivered locally

- When policy intentions don't translate into action then local communities get frustrated.
- Decision-makers need to fully understand the local complexities when making decisions.
- Public services must re-build trust with the public. It takes a while for the system to make adjustments.
- Funding for community organisations is an issue. The current model of support and contracting for small community groups and organisations isn't working.
- Part of the tiredness is that we're a pilot initiative place.
- Our young people need to feel that they have something to offer.
- We have the skills and the people – we don't need more external programmes.
- Funding is an issue for small community providers. We have to wait-list people as we don't have enough resources.
- NGOs operate with an uncertain funding future – that's not good.
- Government agencies should be centralised in the communities – one-stop shop – to save people from having to travel all round town to make appointments with different agencies.
- Government should invest more in facilities that already exist (eg marae).
- "Localised initiatives for local issues."

Local programmes and systems are undermined when they get to the national level

The education system does not support decision-making by local communities and low income whānau and their tamariki

- Gisborne is lumped in with Hawke's Bay for education.
- There's a problem of accessibility: secondary students need a free school bus service, or there needs to be a new school built.

- Need safe and reliable transport options.
- Need access to positive after-school activities.
- Education: the secondary system doesn't work for our kids, the primary pedagogy works better (ie one teacher, rather than moving between classes).
- Kids who don't fit in the education system need more options and support.
- We need more money for alternative education.
- Transitions from early childhood to primary to secondary haven't been done well.

We should teach kids financial literacy.

Something real and tangible must come from this wellbeing strategy

- Tairāwhiti has been having this conversation for many years and not much has changed.
- There is resistance to really tackling the changes required.
- Whānau have lost hope for the future because the systems take too long to change.
- People aren't valued for who they are - for their potential.
- The system perpetuates the unpleasant lives people are stuck in, and this creates the problems.
- What practical things do we need to do to promote good lives so that the other problems vanish?
- What are those of us with advantage doing to help?

Empower rangatahi by lowering the voting age to 16 years old.

Importance of the child's voice.

- What's different with this Strategy? What's really going to change to ensure the child's voice is heard?

There is evidence that increasing inequality leads to increasing societal ills, and that disadvantages all of us.

Access to quality food is a major contributor to wellbeing

- Healthy food is too expensive.
- Our regulation does not do enough to discourage low-income whānau and their tamariki from buying unhealthy food.

There isn't not enough government support to whānau for children's behavioral issues.

- There are big problems with behavioral issues in children and young people and there isn't enough resource to help.
- Drugs, addiction, and fetal alcohol syndrome contribute significantly to these issues.
- The education system isn't supported with resources to cope with troubled behaviour.

Government accountability

- Government departments across all sectors need to be measured and held to account for their contributions and ability to work together to improve the wellbeing of children.
- Government departments should have to include this in their accountability documents

and report against that.

The family court and justice systems are very punitive. They don't listen to children's voices.

- Justice documents don't adequately record children's voices.
- We need properly trained child advocates put back in the system.

The media has responsibilities – it needs to be more ethical in how it covers children's issues and issues of poverty.

A strengths-based approach is important, instead of a focus on deficits.

We need to consider economic progress holistically with social factors.

- Too often in places like the Gisborne region, we push economic development at the cost of social imperatives.
- Our people are suffering because big businesses aren't held to account for workplace safety.

If we can help our whānau get back to the land then we can address issues of education, health, etc.

2. Hastings

Participants at this hui included representatives from various Māori and non-government social service provider organisations, community groups, Te Kohanga Reo, The Māori Women's Welfare League, and Hawke's Bay District Health Board (including two youth representatives).

How will the outcomes framework be given practical effect?

- How will the Strategy be implemented?
- How can those outside government be involved?
- The proposed outcomes framework is good, but it needs more of a focus on Māori – there's a risk Māori are lost in a universal approach [Key point from the two youth representatives]

This needs to be a meaningful engagement process

- What consultation has been and is being done and with tamariki and rangatahi and Māori and Māori organisations?
- You need to come back to us end of the engagement process and post Strategy development to prove you were listening and that our comments have been taken seriously.

Māori concepts need to be more visible in the outcomes framework

Government accountability

- The Strategy needs to ensure government accountability, but avoid Ministers and agencies reverting to 'silos'.

Local programmes and systems are undermined when they get to the national level.

- Government needs to enable and support communities: seek solutions from communities, don't just come along with solutions.

Wellbeing of parents and whānau is essential for child wellbeing

- It's important to support parents so that they're able to, in turn, support their kids.

Poverty is a relative concept and shouldn't set the tone and aspirations for a wellbeing Strategy

- Many of us grew up in impoverished circumstances, but we didn't think we were pōharatanga or poor.
- The Strategy shouldn't be about fixing pōharatanga. On its own, that's an unhelpful deficit approach to improving the wellbeing of our tamariki and rangatahi.

3. Rotorua

Participants at this hui included representatives from Lakes District Health Board, Children's Team, Oranga Tamariki, Te Arawa iwi groups, and the Māori Women's Welfare League.

The Treaty needs to be better woven throughout the Strategy

Whānau needs to be more obvious and present in the Strategy

There needs to be more flexibility in funding of programmes across all sectors that contribute to child wellbeing

The vision for the Strategy is disconnected from reality and not grounded in lived experiences

- "Best in the world" doesn't sit well. It's too competitive and/or insulting to the New Zealanders who honestly believe it already is the best in the world.
- The Strategy is idealistic and doesn't recognise peoples real lived experiences, at a community level.
- The Government seems to be focused on making New Zealand the best place in the world when locally crime is high, abuse is a lived experience for many, and children don't have lunch, shoes or somewhere safe to sleep.
- The Strategy needs to be accessible, ie developing a clear one pager, so that when it filters down through the different levels and most likely gets distorted on the way, people can be empowered to pull out the Strategy and say, "Hey, no. This is what it's really about" and hold government agencies to account.

Programmes need to be developed and delivered locally by and for the communities they serve

- There needs to be a focus on building local capability and working closely with local people so that when government inevitably pulls the plug, the community isn't left trying to pick up the pieces. Local leadership and backing of initiatives is essential.
- Programmes for Māori by Māori are essential.
- The disconnect from reality reinforces the fact that the Government doesn't know what's happening in the regions and therefore doesn't care about local communities.

- Communities need to be able to buy into the vision statement and the Strategy more widely because at the end of the day the regions/locals buying into the Strategy will be the most important factor to its success or failure.

Social Sector Trials were an example of a central government experiment that didn't work at local level

- Social Sector Trials were good in theory, but at the end of the day failed because there was still “competition” and individualistic targets for different sector agencies.

Whānau Ora needs to be central to the Strategy

- Whānau Ora is a means of bringing whānau into the Strategy.
- The philosophy and the principles of Whānau Ora are a pathway for us to better integrate whānau into the Strategy.
- Even though Whānau Ora didn't get every perfectly right, almost everyone will agree that the principles and philosophy are the right approach.

Balance between focus on changing Māori outcomes and reinforcing negative stereotypes of Māori

- Need balance between stigma/prioritisation – Māori need to be front and centre but be careful about how that can reinforce negative stereotypes and stigma.
- Need to incorporate the idea that “to be Māori is to be well”.

Youth (20-25) are not well represented in the outcome statements.

Institutional racism in government needs to be addressed

- There are double standards and institution racism – that Māori providers are expected to prove their services deliver for Māori and if they can't they should be shut down – but government agencies and mainstream providers are not held to the same standard.

Joined up government – need to breakdown silos

- There needs to be one government with one goal – no ‘wrong door’ for us to enter.
- Agencies need to communicate better, and work legitimately together so that we are all on the same page – that there is no doubling up – providers have multiple contracts with different agencies and must report the same thing in slightly different ways over and over
- Families get handed around between agencies and often given contradictory messages, etc.

4. Waikato

Participants at this hui included representatives from Community House Te Awamutu, Tamariki Ora, Police Youth Services, Māori Women's Welfare League, Waikato District Health Board, Hamilton West Community Centre, Tokoroa Council of Social Services, Kirikiriroa Family Services Trust, Tokoroa Raukawa Trust, and the Taumaranui Community Kokiri Trust.

Any Strategy needs to be child driven

- Need to focus on what children want.
- Government agencies need to take a child-centred approach.
- There should be spaces that children can call their own.

Four dimensions of wellbeing

- Need to focus on the four dimensions of wellbeing and how the strategy delivers those for tamariki and rangatahi:
 - Taha Tinana (Physical Wellbeing - health)
 - Taha Hinengaro (Mental & Emotional wellbeing - self-confidence)
 - Taha Whānau (Social Wellbeing - self-esteem)
 - Taha Wairua (Spiritual wellbeing - personal beliefs)

Equity should be a focus of the outcomes framework

- The framework needs a focus on equity to determine whānau needing priority and to determine how resources should be allocated to providers and services.
- Government agencies need to invest more into building the workforce and capability of Māori providers to more effectively reach vulnerable whānau and their tamariki.

All levels of the Strategy should be whānau-focused

- Addressing issues with parents and whānau wellbeing is essential to improve child wellbeing.

Healthy food is essential for child wellbeing

- Government could do more with regulation to discourage whānau from buying unhealthy food.
- Support Kai in Schools – need more education around fatty and sugary foods and do more to reduce the cost of healthy food relative to unhealthy food.

Learning and schools play a key role on child wellbeing

- Costs of education – free should mean free. More support needs to be available to address costs of truancy, uniforms, siblings, learning and feeding.
- Schools could play a key role in the strategy with own communities.
- The school could be a powerful hub for a range of services and support for whānau and their tamariki.

The health system's focus needs to change to ensure life course and intergenerational wellbeing

- Move resources to the first 1,000 days, rather than the last 1,000 days of the life course.
- The mental health and disability system needs to be more responsive to conditions that affect children and youth. In particular child behavioral issues with more timely assessment and treatment services.

Poverty, school and education

- Poverty puts so much pressure on families. Kids need to start school with stationary and fees paid. Some families don't know how to access Work and Income support, or feel ashamed.
- Work and Income should work directly with schools so everything in place for children when they start the school year.
- Kai should be available in schools so children go to school and get the nutrients they need. Parents can't afford healthy kai so kids are eating chips and fizzy.
- Make school a place kids want to go to, as better than home.
- Education can help get kids out of poverty and they can even help educate parents.
- Truancy is sometimes caused by kids not having uniform, looking after siblings because mum and dad have to go to work.

Grandparents raising grandchildren seems to be increasing

Drugs and alcohol are major issues for child wellbeing

- Some foster children from homes with drugs and alcohol want parents not to be drunk all the time and on drugs.

Racism

- There is institutional racism across all Ministries: deal with this and it will immediately reduce poverty levels. Need to look at a systemic level not just individual.
- Te Tiriti must be at the centre of every policy.
- There are public servants behind the counter who maintain racist attitudes.
- We have systems and structures that enable people to continue a racist approach to funding, planning, and policy development.
- Unless this is dealt with won't go forward. Providers want to work with particular people who will treat whānau with respect.
- Discrimination exists against iwi and within iwi as well.
- There are varying levels of understanding of te Tiriti among Māori too.
- Institutional racism causes whānau to believe they don't deserve to receive services.

Rangatahi need to participate in development of initiatives for them

- The Strategy needs to be something that is child driven – focusing on what children say they want.
- Core social values are not part of the Council's requirements. An example is the recent development of a local skate park which is unsafe at night and needs to be monitored. Kids asked for it but local government doesn't put proper thought into where it should be and what it should look like.
- Adding youth spaces in an area empowers youth to look after that area. Kids control tagging and so now we don't get any. This approach works well.

Contracting, partnership and communities

- If there's poverty in thinking there's poverty in outcomes. The state operates from deficit framework and this results in impoverished conversations.
- You can't create services for wellbeing by contracting in an impoverished way.

- NGOs are having to contract with 20 different agencies who are telling them how to operate.
- The most consistent practice from government is inconsistency.
- Partnership hasn't been partnership from an NGO perspective.
- Desire is for integrated contract for one child well-being approach, instead of a whole lot of separate contracts for services that contribute to child well-being.
- Taumaranui Community Kokiri Trust: has 40 plus services from family violence services to business development.
- The 'equity model' needs to go right through to resourcing.
- Community organisations can get through doors more effectively than government agencies, but need the resourcing to do so.
- The pay scale needs to be equitable with Oranga Tamariki, otherwise community organisations end up training up Oranga Tamariki social workers.
- Most social organisations funded are only at 70-80% of operating costs.
- We were involved in promoting immunization, and then it was taken away and given to a mainstream provider organization. We can get into marae but the mainstream organisation can't. The new provider asked us for help, so we still contribute to the effort but don't get funded.
- Māori NGOs are doing all the right things. It's time for government to get on board too.

Whānau ora should be central the strategy

Schools should be used as hubs for services to children

- Schools know what community needs. The more the community drives initiatives the easier it is for agencies to achieve their objectives.

Puao te Ata Tu made recommendations for change 30 years ago, and we are still trying to address the same things.

- How is it that we're no further ahead? Practitioners in NGOs work as hard as in Oranga Tamariki.

Localised solutions often have better reach than national.

- With staff changes in the government agencies in Taumaranui all the time, we need to start again with partnerships.
- Providers are very innovative as they are not mandated by legislation like Oranga Tamariki. Oranga Tamariki headhunts the qualified social workers. Previously with Children, Young Person and their Families we had community case consults. We're further away from a responsive service model now than we have ever been.
- There doesn't need to be more fundamental change, but the system needs to be reshuffled, to make any Strategy work.

5. Dunedin

Participants at this hui included representatives from Dunedin Kokiri Centre, Te Iho Awhi Rito Social Services, and Koha Kai (lunches in schools).

Government agencies need to move from prescription to partnership in contracting with providers

- The prescriptive approach to provision doesn't work, this will result in the needs of whānau not being met.

The Strategy needs to focus on a Whānau Ora approach

- The Whānau Ora approach is in the right direction.
- A lot of other agencies can only do this bit and not that bit, but an overarching Whānau Ora approach can help to co-ordinate the right service combination to the right individuals and the whānau as a whole.
- Example given of a whānau of six with one child with autism and another with ADHD, but all of the agencies working with the mum were stressing her out because they were all dealing with her and the tamariki separately. A navigator got involved to advocate and connect agencies up and her whole experience changed.

Governments need to give providers and whānau certainty of policy and resources

- Initiatives are supported, but a new Government comes in and changes the policy – so we have to adjust and somehow become sustainable.
- A long-term view of policy needs to be taken by all governments.
- New initiatives are competing with existing initiatives and the status quo.

Housing support is crucial for wellbeing, but the solutions need to be workable

- State housing example in Gore: a whānau gets sent to the motor camp and then get kicked out because they are noisy.

Social problems accumulate in our most deprived communities and whānau suffer more.

- Government needs to prioritise resourcing for the communities that struggle most.
- Tuatapere has a high rate of unemployment, it's a real struggle for that community.
- Our local school has had 12 leadership changes in 10 years.

Healthy food is crucial for wellbeing

- Kids should never be concerned with where the next meal comes from.
- Decile 1-3 children will be the innovators of the future – one of the fundamental building blocks to their success is nutrition.

Institutional racism or discrimination for other reasons is a reality in government agencies

- Example: A typical shearer was falsely accused of boozing. Because he was rough and Māori, he wasn't given a chance and the care of his children became an issue.

Good quality advocacy for our most vulnerable rangatahi and whānau is crucial to wellbeing

- Need for advocacy in MSD – we need people who are trained to access essential needs of tamariki and rangatahi – accommodation, food, care, etc.
- Young people could have entitlements, but they are not accessed easily or made available in a timely manner. For example, the 6-8 weeks it can sometimes take for a young person to get financial support for basic needs can be the most vulnerable time for them, and

their situation can go from bad to worse while they're waiting for what financial support they're entitled to.

- The system is too slow it means 16-19 year olds are vulnerable to local predators.
- A young person may need to leave home due to violence or just because the home is not working, but the system doesn't give them many options. It is very hard to risky situations turning into crisis situations.

Entitlements could be applied to and travel with the young person

- Those entitlements could be organised for a young person by advocates for support and services across a range of sectors (social welfare, education, health, community etc).
- Redeeming any funding and other entitlements could to be informed by professionals, eg a navigator, doctor, social worker, teacher, etc.

6. Christchurch

Participants at this hui included representatives from Ara Institute Canterbury, Madawaska, Te Puna Oranga, Darfield High School, Te Whare Hauora, Purapura Whetu Trust, Te Ora Hou and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Children need more play, and activities and experiences of previous generations

- Children need more nature, more trees to climb, there needs to be a return to the land. Get kids off the phones and screens.
- We need to learn how to respect the land. If we look after the land it will look after us. There needs to be a return to the old ways. Talk to our elders, they know how to pass on the important knowledge and learnings to our tamariki and rangatahi.

Education is the most important thing.

- We need people to have faith in us. To believe in us so that we are not just another statistic. Our teachers didn't think we could do it. Education should be about closing gaps, but when the teachers don't believe in us it's just making things worse.
- There are already organisations that are doing well for Māori locally, look to them – for example, Te Ora Hou, a community development and alternative education provider.
- There needs to be more full immersion of Te Reo Māori
- Disabled children are being excluded from education. Mainstreaming education has resulted in a reduction of support – there needs to be more funding to compensate for the integration of high needs children into classrooms. For example, more Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) that provides support for students with the highest level of need for special education.

Spirituality, a Māori world view, the natural world, and the environment should all be reflected in the Strategy

- A loss of spirituality is the reason that there is so much suffering and poor well-being.
- Spiritual healing – we need to look beyond western medicine, there are a lot of things our people need that are not supported because they don't fit a traditional western/Pākehā world view. We need to recognise the clinical side of the traditional Māori medicine.

- Our children only feed into the world what they know and learn from their immediate environment. They would not know how to articulate what they need because they've never known it. We need to listen to what they are not saying as much as what they are saying. The absence can tell us something.

The Strategy needs some permanency regardless of who is in Government

- This Strategy needs to stick around past the Government of the day. How do we ensure that this will be the case? How do we sell this across parties?
- We're doing the best for a whānau. If you put this Strategy up, I want to be able to see what is different. I want to see something new that gives me hope. I really hope this 'engagement' is not just another exercise.

There needs to be clear accountability for achieving the Strategy

- What accountability is there? Who will lose their job if this doesn't work? Who will take responsibility to ensure this is not just another Strategy that's ignored and doesn't change outcomes?

The Treaty should be a clear and empowering dimension of the Strategy

- The Treaty is not being honored. Trust us. Support us to support ourselves.
- The Treaty is not taught. Why isn't it taught?
- Lots of people want to change the world for us, but they don't want to do it with us, or beside us. There is a lack of credibility, trust, and acknowledgement for Māori knowledge. The Treaty is not being respected.
- New Zealand is a horrible place to raise a child. The biggest factor is what has happened to our people and not honouring the Treaty. We could take care of ourselves if we were supported to do so.

Wrap-around services to parents and whānau are essential

- Children are not in poverty, families are. We need more wrap-around services – wrap the support around children, women, and whānau.
- Don't punish the children because of the parents.
- Drug addictions – not having a place to go to – you can't force someone to get better, but you still need to provide them with basic support so that the children don't suffer.
- Don't punish single parents who don't identify the fathers on their birth certificates (we are punishing children for something beyond their control).
- Single parents are going to work – but we are setting them up to fail because there is no safety net in place with the benefit system.
- Stability and predictability is important.

Programmes need to be developed and delivered locally

- Locally there are a lot of services in place but then national services get rolled out without checking what's needed. This displaces or wastes efforts. Ask communities before implementing. Work with communities.
- Support community services – many of the organisations are just as much in poverty as those they are trying to help.

Access to quality food is a major contributor to wellbeing

- Food in schools: some people are pro, some people against, so its needs to be implemented carefully.
- There are already a lot of local solutions we need to work with, what is already in place, so that there isn't waste.

Men need to be more active and good role models in children's lives.

- So many children don't have any male role models.

Want to see culture celebrated as a focus area of the Strategy

- There needs to be more positive support for children to retain their native language while still learning English (not just Te Reo Māori).

Sexuality, and identity more widely, is missing from the framework

- There should be specific reference to sexual identity and cultural identity.

There are relevant overseas models for reducing poverty that the government could draw from.

- We should look to the Scandinavian countries for what works.
- More benefit support needed – the warmer homes package made a massive difference, but people are still struggling.

There should be a tangible focus on Love in government policy and activities (e.g. in education)

- Parents need to be supported to help them to learn how to love and how to nurture their children.
- The cycle of family violence means that parents don't know how to be good parents.
- We should be teaching our children how to love in schools for the next generation

7. Auckland

Participants at this hui included representatives from Manaaki Tangata, Te Paea Emergency Housing, and South Auckland Youth Services.

Joined up government – the Strategy needs to breakdown silos

- I would like to see the machinations to break down the silos between the agencies.

Whānau and Whānau Ora needs to be central to the strategy

- My moko/our kids are not islands - they are part of our whānau.
- The system doesn't see the intimacy of what goes on in our whānau, and it's the detail of the relationships in that intimacy that is important.

The onus should not be on Tamariki to change the behaviour of their parents

- I can remember the days when we asked our kids to tell their parents not to smoke and drink – the wrong approach because it was a negative whakaari for the kids.
- The Strategy pre-supposes that kids are empowered to be in a position to make good decisions.

The Health System needs to focus on the first 1000 days of life

- I want the world to be populated with Māori babies, but they need to be healthy and loved Māori babies. How do we create the circumstances to be different?
- First 1,000 days – needs to start with whānau support. Whānau and government need an alert process that a family is about to have a baby and need support. This connection is required to make a plan for the right services.

Government agencies need to be more accountable

- We need to hold the departments to account when kids fail (eg MOE in education). We blame the kids and their whānau instead.

The Treaty should be a clear and empowering dimension of the Strategy

- Great to see the Treaty there – but what does it translate into?

Older New Zealanders need support too

- Grandparents take in kids because the parents aren't looking after them. They are a good resource but it's not ideal. It seems to be a big problem of this generation.

Essential services such as housing need to be better targeted to properly reach those in need

- For five of the families removed through the Tamaki transformation project only one family has moved back – those who were relocated didn't go back to the Glen Innes and Māngere.
- Regarding the homes taken out of Māngere – since the 300 homes were taken away, no-one has asked where the 300 families have gone.
- Māori whānau are being recycled out of the state homes and put in motels and moved around and around from there. Our whānau are being displaced by people who are better off.
- I live in emergency housing. I love my kids I don't beat them. I've made some bad choices. But I just need the basics to help me out and I'm learning how to look after myself and my kids. Housing is my big challenge and I don't want to live in a motel.
- Having a home is a major issue and a key to wellbeing for whānau and tamariki. If parents are stressed out because they are struggling to find a home, then their tamariki will be stressed and angry – and then those tamariki in our area will be angry and that's when they are most likely to go out and beat people up on buses (incidents recently reported in the media).
- Homeless whānau are a big challenge.

The language we use with vulnerable whānau and tamariki is important

- Is there another word to use rather than 'integration' because it's a term that reflects a power imbalance with a winner and a loser?
- Problems come down through 4-5 generations – the language has changed, whānau don't call themselves 'nan', 'papa', 'aunty' – they call themselves 'bro'.
- We don't say ask who is your mum or dad? – because many of these kids don't have parents - we ask who's your whānau?
- The language used by whānau and service people is crucial in order for our whānau to get the help that they need – otherwise they talk past each other. Therefore, education is crucial so that our tamariki and whānau can know the language needed to get help.

- Language is a big issue – we need to use language that whānau understand and doesn't put Māori in a negative light.
- The foreigners are supported through the language barriers, but Māori and Pacifica New Zealanders are not.

We need to better understand and respond to the language and culture of the current generation of vulnerable whānau

- The number one focus area is important to me: 'Children and families must be safe and nurtured in their homes'.
- I need to work with all whānau members – nothing works and sticks when I work with them as individuals.
- There were no leaders in these whānau so they are often directionless
- There is often no emotion in the whānau's vocabulary. This reflects a lack of compassion
- Dreams and aspirations don't materialise because parents aren't able to imagine.
- Parents don't know what their children are learning at school and become detached from their learning – they send their kids to school and say, "ka kite"
- Puna Waiora is missing.

Addiction / Meth is a major barrier in low socio-economic communities

- Addiction is a major problem - drugs, alcohol, gambling, etc.

Schools and marae should be used as hubs for services to children

- Counsellors within the schools would be good. A hub of service focus could lead to major changes in outcomes for tamariki and whānau.
- Support needs to start at early childhood education and follow-on into kura.
- ECE's and/or schools should be the hub to wrap the broader social services around.
- Marae should work alongside these hubs, which should be the centre of the puna of wellbeing.
- Our marae are the hubs of wellness for our people.
- There are 147,000 Māori in Auckland and we have 38 marae in south Auckland. We can use the marae more effectively to help whānau.
- Having hubs in a school to focus whānau services would be ideal.

Good quality advocacy for our most vulnerable rangatahi and whānau is crucial to wellbeing

- In state care the child has lawyers and they're empowered when they go to court but then sent back to whānau.
- Advocacy is necessary because the language and processes are foreign to many of whānau.
- All the people in their lives who should be protecting them aren't there doing that job.
- Whakamā is a major challenge for many of our whānau
- Mental health is a major issue – it has a stigma for our tamariki and so often they don't seek help.

Need more spaces for tamariki to be children

We need to consider economic progress holistically alongside social factors

- My kids came through an education system that focused on building the economy rather than well-being. It now feels like the focus is shifting from the economy to caring for each other. We need curriculum to change and drive that shift.
- I'm glad a came to this hui. It's a big step forward to just be sitting here and talking round the table and sharing our ideas with DPMC.

Want to see culture celebrated as a focus area

- We need to embrace Māori and all other groups in the community.

Institutional racism is a reality and a systemic barrier

- A huge layer of racism confronts our whānau.

Real partnerships of support with community groups can create transformative change for whānau

- I'm interested in seeing what partnerships look like for us all (as someone Māori but with Tongan whānau too).
- I want to see the big picture of strategy for change.
- I want to see what government departments are going to do to shift the outcomes for tamariki.
- Are we looking at how and why our struggling whānau are in these positions? Need whānau support – but I've got no whānau in Auckland. Whānau moving from provinces really struggle in Auckland. The Strategy should focus more on where a whānau came from to get to where they are now.

8. Wellington

Participants at this hui included representatives from Muaūpoko Tribal Authority, Raukawa Whānau Ora, Kōkiri Marae, the Māori Women's Welfare League, Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, Cannons Creek Youth Charitable Trust, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Poneke Community Services, and Te Korowai Aroha Whānau Services.

The Strategy needs to support 'carers of carers'

- Perhaps there will be no extra funding in the system and help is not on the way, but hope is on the way if we can reconfigure the system to focus in a collective and coordinated way on the outcomes that will improve the well-being of tamariki and rangatahi.

Censorship policy and regulations don't give enough protection to our children and young people

- Kids are allowed to be exposed to violence, soft porn and other material that affects their development and behavior.

Policy and regulations around food don't give enough protection to our children and young people and their whānau

- Kids and families are exposed to high fat and sugar foods with preservatives and chemicals that create intergenerational physical and mental health problems.
- Behaviour, obesity, diabetes, heart disease can all be attributed to poor diet.

The skill of parenting is not valued anymore

Spirituality is missing from the outcomes framework

- The kaupapa of healing is not given airtime - tamariki are born into a mainstream experience so the cultural and spiritual aspects of being Māori are not valued and don't influence their choices.

Tamariki need to be able to connect with their culture and history

- It is important that children and young people are able to reconnect with their traditional cultural backgrounds and are made aware of and understand the history, culture and stories of the communities they live in.
- Our experience is that when this approach is taken by schools, it helps to ground students in their community creates an environment much more conducive to learning and improved achievement. For example, local schools include stories from Ngāi Toa history and culture in their learning programmes.

Older New Zealanders are an untapped resource to help tamariki and rangatahi

- We recommend an advisory group of wahine to provide guidance on grass roots and old-school values and education. Utilise the nannies, possibly organised through the Māori Women's Welfare League.

Social Sector Trials were an example of a central government experiment that didn't work at local level

- Social sector trials – some of the things trialled actually worked quite well and the trials left some good competencies in the community. For example, the reporting mechanism change behavior.

The Before School Check is an example of a disconnected initiative.

- We were told Before School Checks were necessary, but they aren't used beyond the start of school in the education or the health system. What's the point except to highlight how unready our kids are for school. It would be different if they were used as some sort of baseline to track the key outcomes for our kids as they grow, but the schools, DHBs and other agencies that come into contact don't make use of them as far as we know.

Don't decentralise resources and service to local government

- Direction of these important community initiatives would be influenced too much by elections and individuals' political aspirations if under local government.

Local programmes and systems are undermined at the national level

- Good effective and sustainable initiatives lose favour to ‘bright-new-thing’ initiatives. Too much led from top-down.

Something real and tangible has to come from this wellbeing strategy

- We are sick of consultation. It’s a ‘co-design without the resource trap’.
- Rationale for engagement on the Strategy – government needs to talk to more than 20% of Māori as 67% of vulnerable children are Māori.

A separate Māori Strategy?

- A Māori strategy could be separate, but needs to be woven together with the main strategy at some point so everyone takes responsible for it and it doesn’t get ghetto-ised.

Pay equity between iwi Māori social workers and Government social workers is a major issue

- The funding currently available to community providers is insufficient for them to maintain pay equity and compete with government agencies on salaries, and we are losing our key workers to the large institutional service providers.
- The formula for funding of capability and capacity needs to be revisited to create sustainable solutions – there is far too much reliance on volunteers.
- The contribution of the likes of the Māori Women’s Welfare League and Māori Wardens, is undervalued by the funders. They are also feeling exhaustion from high number of government agency hui, where they are invited/expected to attend.

The Treaty should be a clear and empowering dimension of the Strategy

- The relationship is between the Crown and iwi. Therefore, iwi should not be treated as just another provider. Iwi should be first and foremost in all relationships with government.

Important to provide services for Māori who are not connected with their iwi or hapū

- Not all whānau here are connected to iwi. The Māori Women’s Welfare League and other national and urban Māori organisations engage with those who don’t have or can’t get iwi support.

Joined up government – need to breakdown silos

- It is unhelpful for iwi and other providers that they encounter ‘separate doors’ to government agencies. They all have to be dealt with separately. It’s very inefficient and ineffective in terms of the economics, relationships and impact of resources and effort on improving outcomes for tamariki and whānau.
- Many whānau receiving wraparound services in our area are facing crippling debt to government agencies - the top creditors are the Ministries of Social Development and Justice, and Housing New Zealand. If this debt was removed, the majority of these whānau could afford to pay a mortgage.

Something needs to change to create a public system that is agile and able to be more urgent.

- With seven layers of decision making and other attributes of the bureaucracy there is no rushing even though the social issues whānau and communities face are urgent.

Institutional racism is a reality and a systemic barrier

- Decolonisation needs to be done at a system level to support whānau at a grass roots level.
- Unconscious bias and institutional racism is an issue in the system.

Community providers have valuable lived experience

- Community providers often have the lived experience as well as learned experience to deliver sustainable service solutions to tamariki and their whānau

Providers need certainty of funding

Certainty of funding is very important and some effective programmes, such as the after school programme, have struggled to get sustainable funding despite their success. Māori providers can't rely on funding from the proceeds of Treaty Settlements. Need to unlock resources so that they flow more effectively.

The skill of parenting isn't valued anymore

- We need to focus on what works and some of the old-school methods of raising our kids are worth reviving – “sometimes we've got to look back to go move forward”.
- Older people make a valuable and significant contribution to raise their mokopuna and relieving the pressure on parents who struggle to care for their children. But they are struggling too, including financially.

Rangatahi view

- Depression and risk of suicide is hard to recognise amongst our peers at school. Growing up in poverty means it's hard to know who to trust. Children and young people turn to social media for help and guidance but they should be able to be supported by real people. A buddie system with our peers works well. The Tuakana-Teina support concept is very helpful.

Key principles for co-design and resourcing with Māori partners

1. Listen to iwi and Māori partners.
2. Unlock and allow resources to flow to the right places in a coordinated manner
3. Set up longer term funding arrangements to provide certainty for providers and the whānau, tamariki and rangatahi supported.
4. Trust providers to have the answers and deliver solutions – locally led solutions need to be backed.
5. Need support to build capability.
6. Need to re-think what partnership looks like.

9. Nelson

Participants at this hui included representatives from Whakatu Marae, Building Financial Capability Plus (BFC Plus), Te Piki Oranga, and Toputanga Tapuhi/NZ Nurses Association.

Programme providers need certainty of resources

- BFC plus – programme works intensively with whānau who are constantly in crisis (MSD) contract. Government decided to restructure. Only two in the South Island now, in Christchurch and Invercargill, and leaves the rest of the South Island uncatered for. Top of South Island has no service left as of June next year which is reducing child poverty. This will severely restrict our ability to do important work.
- Poverty begins at home and what are we doing to help the whānau?
- Our job is to work with whānau. Nelson is often seen as a rich but there are quite significant pockets of deprivation.
- Working with parents to enable them to provide for tamariki. Funding constantly pulled.
- Marae are under pressure to assist Oranga Tamariki but funding not there and don't have capacity to provide more services. There's more focus on Māori, but we don't have readiness to provide at this stage. To meet greater needs we need more money – eg for places for rangatahi to be housed who have been in trouble. There are no providers doing that. We need help to become one of those providers – with the capability to do audit, etc.
- Falling out of changes. Intensive services walking with whānau from the very beginning of OT process. One worker has statutory role and other's role is to make sure done in a way that is tika and pono. Just got a three-year contact which is great. Need more resource to build staff and meet requests that come outside of paying contracts.
- Nelson to meet needs of changing population and to meet demand for kaupapa.
- Whānau don't just need income they need mentoring about how to use income. Need to walk alongside them.

Some whānau are not seen by the system because they are mobile

- Government system uses census and top of the south doesn't have population.
- Influx of people coming into region since earthquakes or escaping from gangs. They are often not seen. Also, transient population.

Local programmes and systems are undermined at the national level.

- Government departments have carved up the South Island. Varies depending on agency. People making decisions need to realise the geographics of the South Island.

The Health system needs to focus on the first 1,000 days

- Great to see focus area 14 First 1,000 days.
- Big challenge to support young pregnant wahine in crisis and encourage them to keep babies rather than have an abortion. Many are CYF kids around 17 years old.
- Benefit doesn't kick in until baby born but wahine needs to reduce stress in third trimester and get into stable situation. Beneficial if in third trimester recognised that woman needs to be supported to set her up for breastfeeding and bonding.
- A lot of whānau won't go to doctor as they can't afford it.
- Poverty from violent situations, not employment, can't read and write – young Māori mothers are a change agent.
- Huge focus now in infant mental health. Needs to be a focus. Are pediatricians being spoken to? Pre-conception is also important.

- Another concern: while pregnant women have free medical care it is only related to the pregnancy – eg if a woman has chest infection, she’s not entitled to free treatment in relation to that illness. Poor health can affect a woman’s ability to get work, to properly communicate and care for the children etc.
- Barriers to accessing health care: some medical centres are refusing to treat whānau until they clear their debt for previous visits. Motueka is a low socio-economic area. Wahine have come in to the centre very ill. The doctor refuses to see them as they haven’t paid previous bills and they end up in hospital or critically ill.

Access to quality housing is a major contributor to wellbeing

- Cost of housing has exploded in our areas.
- Some houses are in very poor condition and black mould is becoming a significant health factor.

Schools and marae should be used as hubs for services to children

- Bring back school-based dental clinics
- Dental hubs – no dental nurse at school. How can parents get out of work to take them to wherever the mobile dental clinic is parked? This is one of the single most significant health issues facing tamariki and their whānau.
- We should be doing the basics, like teaching children to brush their teeth. There are school-based programmes that work in some parts of the country (Northland). Government should be trialing and rolling them out in other sites.
- Similarly, we don’t do school banking anymore – which taught our tamariki and whānau about financial literacy early in their lives.

Māori services for Māori people

- Need to create our own Māori services as mainstream services are not working.
- All Māori, regardless of where they live, should have the option of access to Māori services.

The Treaty should be a clear and empowering dimension of the Strategy

- The Strategy should focus on te Tiriti rather than the Treaty.
- Reflect te Tiriti in outcomes more. Also, equity.
- What has happened to the principles? We’ve only just started to utilise the principles in our thinking and planning here in Nelson, and now we hear they’re not the focus of this government now?

Employers, business and related regulation needs to be more family focused

- Employers are not family oriented.

Modern life and technology places new challenges on whānau

- Need to ask New Zealanders to make changes in lifestyle.
- Don’t want people to be on devices during family time.
- Need to re-open whānau kitchen table discussions for this and future generations.
- We have just started some mahi to connect parts of our programme back to the way our grandparents used to do things.

10. New Plymouth

Participants of this hui included representatives from Taranaki District Health Board, The Māori Women's Welfare League, Ngāti Ruanui, Te Korowai o Ngaruahine Trust, Pinnacle Health, Tū Tama Wāhine O Taranaki, and the Māori Wardens.

Whānau and Whānau Ora needs to be central to the strategy

- Tamariki and rangatahi need strong, connected families. They need to know their whakapapa and have a sense of belonging and attachment.
- Various speakers expressed support for the principles of Whānau Ora and a whānau-based approach.
- "If whānau are thriving, tamariki will thrive – the reverse doesn't necessarily hold."

Essential services such as housing need to be better targeted to properly reach those in need

- Having a place to call home, a house – there many transitional families in New Plymouth.

Communities need to be at the centre of service provision for the Strategy

- Government needs to support communities. Transformation will come from them.
- Government needs to devolve funding and decision-making back to whānau, hapū, and iwi.
- We don't want more service provision or an expansion of service provision. We don't need another top-down programme. We need ground-up transformation.
- Give power to communities to do the mahi.
- Government needs to take account of local contexts, especially the situations of different iwi, who have different histories.
- There need to be strong connections within our communities.

Something real and tangible has to come from this wellbeing strategy

- To motivate change: there needs to be a wider purpose; and people need autonomy over choices and actions.

A focus on reducing poverty is essential

- People are struggling to survive. It's hard to address deeper or bigger issues when people are struggling to just get by.

Addiction / Meth is a major barrier in low socio-economic communities

- Because of the impact of drugs, grandparents are having to parent their mokopuna. And support for them from agencies and government is inadequate.
- The justice system doesn't properly address drugs issues – it puts people back in homes with kids.
- But the justice system may not be the best place to address the issue of drugs. We need to think about alternative approaches, such as marae-based approaches.
- Alcohol and FASD (fetal alcohol spectrum disorder): it's hard to get help and services early enough – the system requires things to get to court before whānau can access help and services.

Essential services such as housing need to be better targeted to properly reach those in need

- Housing New Zealand doesn't work for the welfare of the people.
- The KiviBuild development in Marfell (suburb of New Plymouth) is displacing the needy whānau and making property unaffordable for them.

Something real and tangible has to come from this wellbeing strategy

- Failure of government to properly address the legacy of historical injustice (ie ongoing impacts of colonisation). "If the foundation is wrong from the beginning then whatever changes you try to make on top won't work".
- "Here we are trying to deal with homelessness issues when we've had our homelands taken."
- Need better local government representation for Māori.
- Change is coming too slow – 10 year targets, etc – that's another generation gone.

Programmes need to be developed and delivered locally

- Services aren't based around the needs of the individual.
- Oranga Tamariki isn't great, but it seems to be getting better.

Funding hapū (rather than iwi) increases the likelihood of resources and services reaching whānau

- Money and resources need to go to hapū level, not iwi.
- Iwi operate at a different level and the funding doesn't always get down to where it's needed.
- Iwi need to up their game for providing services to their people – such as housing, and whānau support.

Workforce

- Sometimes it's us as professionals/organisations that prevent change – we don't have the right trained workforce.

Comments on the Strategy's draft outcomes framework:

- What are the values underpinning your approach? If they're not te ao Māori then they won't work for Māori.
- Need to flip the outcomes framework so it reflects that tamariki and rangatahi are taonga.
- It needs to be kaupapa Māori and Treaty-based.
- The Strategy's universal approach is problematic – we need targeted programmes.

11. Kaitia

Participants at this hui included representatives from Te Hiku Iwi Development, Ngā Rangatahi o Ngāti Kahu, Whakawhiti Ora Pai, and the Far North District Council.

Poverty is multi-dimensional

- Poverty here is about the working poor. They wouldn't see themselves as poor – even though their cost of living is higher and their income is lower than other communities and regions.
- Poverty has economic, spiritual, and cultural dimensions in our community.
- Low income earning Māori solo-parents are disadvantaged even more by the tax system. We take on more than one job to make ends meet for our kids and get penalised by secondary tax.

The Strategy and its vision needs to be the primary strategy for all relevant sectors

- The Strategy needs to be the premier strategy – it needs to have the 'Tuakana' rather than 'Teina' status, of all the other government strategies.

We need to give a meaningful voice to rangatahi

We need to have the culture of our communities driving change

- Older people should not be taking advice from rangatahi.
- The views, values, knowledge and experience of older people, particularly in our rural communities can provide important guidance for our children and young people.
- The moral and philosophical values held by people in our rural areas have the potential to contribute significantly to positive change for our tamariki and rangatahi.

Service providers and communities need clarity from the government on Whānau ora

- We have poor children because we have poor whānau.
- Some government heads of departments have not supported Whānau ora and the PM needs to say – 'you're on board or you're gonski'.
- The commissioning agency model is not working for Kaitiaki because it is so far removed from what we are doing with our whānau here.
- Commissioning agency resources are going to Auckland rather than Te Kao. We are at the bottom of a value chain – we are sub-contracted by a sub-contractor to the commissioning agency. So a lot of money is already spent before it reaches the whānau here.
- Government needs to ensure that the funding goes as directly as possible to where it is most needed.

Access to quality food is a major contributor to wellbeing

- Research done by Auckland University showed that food is an issue with early brain development among our whānau.

The lack of an obvious focus on Māori and Pasifika outcomes in the Strategy is less important than local level autonomy around implementation of the Strategy

- The Strategy may not have enough Māori or Pacific in it – but it looks like it could work overall – but only if you let us determine how the Strategy translates and works at a local level.

Good local level essential infrastructure helps to address poverty and improve wellbeing

- Internet access is a big issue in the Far North: we need fibre internet access up here in the North to access properly all of the key social and economic opportunities available to other New Zealanders.

Strong moral and cultural values are an important factor of wellbeing

- Our rangatahi have expressed a sense of hopelessness.
- It is a very unfortunate reality that many of our whānau up here are morally dysfunctional. This is because moral indicators are missing.
- Our tamariki are rich in terms of matauranga but poor in terms of material and economic means.

The government should reconsider initiatives that have created positive change from the past

- Will the government look back at initiatives from the past? Initiatives such as the old PTAs and parenting programmes should be reviewed and properly resourced.

Develop a strong brand for child wellbeing that can be adopted and adapted at a local level

- We aim to develop a brand in Kaitaia to focus everyone in the community on the idea that the wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi should be everyone's goal and responsibility. To make this brand and vision highly visible, we are working with property owners in the town to get their support to plaster the walls of all our empty buildings with images of our children. We're only 15,000 people, but if we can reach as many whānau and individuals and in our community with this idea and our strategy, we have a much better chance of effecting change.

The Strategy needs clear and meaningful measures and terminology for Māori

- How will you develop relevant measures for Māori?
- Māori kupu need to be normalised in the strategy and focus areas.
- There needs to be reference to whānau, hapū and iwi.

The Strategy needs to have some focus on the importance of physical activity for our tamariki and rangatahi

Our current generation of rangatahi don't have access to the whānau support that previous generations had

- Nannies and other older whānau members supported tamariki in our communities in the past.
- Whānau and volunteer roles and role models are important and must be resourced properly.
- In the absence of those traditional support networks, in certain circumstances the government or providers need to be able to step in and give guidance and support to tamariki and their whānau.

Public services need to be given the autonomy to work innovatively and use discretion with communities and whānau

- In smaller isolated communities, providers need should be resourced to operate from 'pop-up shops' to provide better access to services.
- Many young people don't know their entitlements from agencies – income, education, health etc. There should be more local level advocates available to rangatahi – especially in small rural communities.

It really does take a village to raise a child – bringing kids up with the support of those those safe people in your community network

- I'm a solo mum with three kids and my kids didn't have a clear sense a belonging – I've had to work hard on my own to give them that.
- We need to teach the next generation to learn from their nannies and other 'safe' people in our community
- Drug and alcohol abuse is a major challenge to this approach – because it produces many unsafe people and poor role models for our tamariki.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Hui Information

Location	Venue Details	Date & Time
Gisborne	Te Puni Kōkiri 299 Gladstone Road Gisborne	12 Nov 2018 11am – 1pm
Hastings	The Green Shed 21 Ruahapia Road Hastings	13 Nov 2018 11am – 1pm
Rotorua	Te Arawa Lakes Trust – Nukuteapiapi Whare Tupuna 1194 Haupapa Street Rotorua	14 Nov 2018 11am – 1pm
Hamilton	Distinction Hotel Conference Centre 100 Garnet Ave Te Rapa Hamilton	19 Nov 2018 10am – 12pm
Dunedin	Arai te Uru Marae 24 Shetland Street Dunedin	20 Nov 2018 10am – 1pm
Christchurch	Rehua Marae 79 Springfield Road Christchurch	22 Nov 2018 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Auckland	Te Paea Marae 1534 Miro Road Māngere Bridge Auckland	26 Nov 2018 10.30am – 12.30pm
Wellington	Te Puni Kōkiri 12 Hagley Street Porirua City Centre Porirua	28 Nov 2018 10am – 12pm
Nelson	Te Puni Kōkiri Level 1 105 Trafalgar Street Nelson	30 Nov 2018 10am – 12pm
New Plymouth	Auto Lodge Motor Inn 393 Devon Street East New Plymouth	29 Nov 2018 10am – 12pm
Kaitaia	Te Ahu Centre Kaitaia	24 Jan 2019 10am – 1:30pm

Appendix B: Proposed Outcomes Framework for Discussion

DRAFT - FOR CONSULTATION - NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY

TAMARIKI TŪ, TAMARIKI ORA / CHILD AND YOUTH WELLBEING STRATEGY

VISION

Ko Aotearoa te tino whenua o te ao mō ngā tamariki me ngā rangatahi
New Zealand is the best place in the world for children and young people

E tutuki ai tēnei whāinga mēnā he tamariki, he rangatahi / This will be achieved when all children and young people:

WELLBEING DOMAINS

**e arohatia ana,
e poipoia ana
e haumaruru ana**

are loved,
nurtured & safe

Families, whānau and homes are safe and nurturing

Children, young people and their parents, caregivers, families and whānau are able to spend quality time together

Children and young people are kept safe from accidental injury at home, in the community, on the road and when taking part in sport and recreational activities

Communities, including at school and online, are safe and supportive, with children and young people protected from victimisation

**e tutuki ana
ō rātou hiahia**

have what they need

Children, young people and the adults caring for them have a good standard of material wellbeing, including food and housing

Parents and caregivers, and young people transitioning to adulthood, enjoy quality employment

Young people who are not in education, training or employment receive additional support to gain education and skills and to obtain and maintain employment

Children and young people live in sustainable communities and environments

**e whai, wāhi ana,
e tautoko ana
e tiakina ana hei kura**

belong, contribute & are valued

Children and young people know who they are: their heritage, their whakapapa and their connection to family, whānau, community, culture, place (tūrangawaewae) and beliefs

Children and young people feel connected to their family, whānau and communities, and are actively included in schools, communities and society

Children and young people are valued and respected for who they are and are supported to have their voices heard

Children and young people are empowered to make age appropriate decisions, and are supported to exercise increasing autonomy as they move to adulthood

Children and young people care about and recognise their responsibilities to others, and contribute positively at home, school and in their communities

Children and young people are empowered to engage on matters of civic and environmental importance

**e harikoa ana,
e noho hauora ana**

are happy & healthy

Children and young people have the best possible physical health, and health status is not a barrier to living a good life

Children and young people experience mental wellbeing, are supported to cope with life's challenges and to heal and recover from trauma

Children and young people have strong networks of trusting, caring relationships with family, whānau, peers, communities and school

Children and young people can play, express themselves creatively, have fun, and have opportunities for down time

Young people take a positive approach to relationships, sexual health and reproductive choices

**e ako ana
e whanake ana**

are learning & developing

Children have positive development starting before birth, including through the wellbeing of mothers, families and whānau

Children and young people develop resilience, and emotional, behavioural and communication skills at home and in education, and are equipped to make successful transitions, including to primary school, secondary school, and into adulthood

Children and young people are positively engaged with and achieving in education, and building skills and knowledge for life and learning

Children and young people have developmentally appropriate opportunities outside the classroom that build confidence and important life skills

Young people make positive choices about alcohol, drugs and sexual relationships, and avoid criminal offending

NOTE: 'Child' and 'children' includes children and young people up to age 18, and, for those transitioning from State care, up to age 25

PROPOSED OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

PRINCIPLES

Our approach to wellbeing is underpinned by seven principles:

- 1 The inherent dignity and value of children and young people
- 2 The wellbeing of children and young people is interwoven with the wellbeing of the family and whānau
- 3 That networks of loving, trusting, caring relationships are at the heart of children's and young people's wellbeing
- 4 The foundational role of the Treaty of Waitangi and the importance of the Crown-Māori partnership in work to promote the wellbeing of New Zealand's children and young people
- 5 That children's and young people's voices and views should be taken into account in developing and implementing the Strategy and in important decisions affecting them
- 6 The rights contained in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which New Zealand has ratified
- 7 We have collective responsibility to nurture the children and young people in our communities, and to support and value the adults who are caring for them

CHILD AND YOUTH WELLBEING STRATEGY **PROPOSED FOCUS AREAS**

Sixteen potential focus areas for the first Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy have been identified:

1. Children and young people are safe and nurtured in their families, whānau and homes

- Children and young people live in loving homes, connected to relationships and support and are free from abuse, neglect and family violence
- The work of parenting and nurturing children is recognised, valued and supported
- Adults caring for children and young people enjoy good mental health, including freedom from severe stress, misuse of alcohol and drugs
- Children and young people in care (including because of offending) have a safe environment and relationships of care, trust and connection

2. Children's and young people's physical safety is protected during everyday activities like travel and recreation

- The community and the physical, policy and regulatory environment work together to promote children's and young people's physical safety
- Serious injury and death through road accidents, drowning and other major accidental causes are reduced
- The particular vulnerability of disabled children and young people to accidental injury is addressed

3. Children and young people have positive interactions with peers and others outside the home

- Children and young people have safe and appropriate relationships with other children and young people and with adults outside the home
- Bullying in schools and recreational environments is addressed
- Children's and young people's safety online is supported

4. Children and young people and their families and whānau live in affordable, quality housing

- Families and whānau can access and afford housing near their work and/or social support structures
- Housing is warm and dry, has space and facilities to meet essential needs and supports good health
- There is stability of tenure for children and young people and families and whānau in rented accommodation
- Housing is supported by quality infrastructure and community facilities to enable good quality of life and positive social connection

5. Child poverty is reduced, in line with the Government's intermediate and ten-year targets

- Children, young people and families and whānau have the resources they need to meet children's basic needs, and enable them to participate fully in society
- Rates of child poverty are significantly and sustainably reduced
- Parents' education and participation in paid work is supported, where appropriate
- Once housing costs are met, families have enough income left over to meet their other needs

6. Children and young people experience improved equity of outcomes, with services helping address the impacts of poverty, low socioeconomic status and disadvantage

- Services and institutions are accessible, welcoming and respectful to all
- Parents, children and young people have the ability to influence the way they get support so it works best for them
- Core services and systems like health, education, justice and social support are designed and delivered in ways that meet diverse needs and that minimise the costs and stresses of engaging with them
- Universal services identify children and young people facing disadvantage and focus proportionately greater resources, effort and energy on supporting them

7. Children and young people are free from racism, discrimination and stigma

- All children and young people are respected and valued for who they are
- No child or young person, or group of children and young people, faces discrimination or stigma on the grounds of ethnicity, disability, or for any other reason

8. The cultures of children, young people and their families and whānau are recognised, enhanced and supported

- Whānau centered approaches are recognised and supported, increasing the agency of children, young people and their families and whānau
- Te Ao Māori and Te Reo Māori are actively promoted
- Children and young people see their cultures, values and context portrayed in a positive way

9. Children and young people have improved opportunities for civic engagement and environmental awareness

- Children and young people are supported to be positive, valued contributors to civic life and the protection of the environment (kaitiakitanga)
- Children's and young people's individual and collective agency is encouraged, and they participate in decisions that affect them directly and wider society

10. Children and young people and their families and whānau are empowered to make healthy lifestyle decisions for children and young people

- Children and young people and those caring for them have the knowledge and resources to make healthy decisions about food, exercise and sleep
- Communities offer access to affordable, nutritious food and environments that enable children to be physically active

11. Disabled children and young people have improved opportunities and outcomes

- Disabled children and young people:
 - Are actively included as full and equal participants in every aspect of community and society
 - Have agency and voice in their wellbeing and choices
 - Have access to quality support and services to enable full and equitable participation
- Neurodisability and neurodiversity are recognised, with children and young people receiving quality services and support

12. Children's and young people's mental wellbeing is supported

- Families and are equipped to provide a supportive home environment that promotes children's and young people's good mental wellbeing
- Children and young people are supported to build the resilience that helps them navigate life's challenges
- Children and young people with emerging mental health needs are identified and they and their families and whānau receive quality, culturally appropriate support
- Children and young people are free from bullying, substance abuse, self-harm and suicide
- Children and young people are supported to recover from trauma and harm

13. Children and young people are supported to make positive decisions

- Children and young people make considered and informed decisions about alcohol, drugs and sexual relationships
- Children and young people consider the impact of their behaviour on others
- Children and young people are supported to be accountable and address the underlying causes of their behaviour if they break the law

14. Children experience best development in their "first 1000 days", safe and positive pregnancy, birth and responsive parenting (conception to around 2)

- People make positive, empowered choices about when to have a family
- The environment around parents helps them make positive choices for pregnancy, birth and parenting
- Communities support families and whānau to grow stable, loving relationships of care for each other and for their babies
- Services for parents and babies are accessible, culturally appropriate, meet a range of needs and support parents to build the lives they want for their babies
- Parents' mental wellbeing is supported and care is taken to reduce stress in the lives of new parents

15. Children are thriving socially, emotionally and developmentally in the early years (around 2 to 6)

- Parents, families, whānau and communities are supported to provide loving, stimulating environments for children to develop and learn
- Children build resilience, self-control and mental wellbeing
- Children develop effective communication skills to support learning and social success
- Children benefit from high quality early learning
- Children's learning needs are identified quickly, and responded to in a timely way, including through additional learning support and support for family and whānau

16. All children and young people have an equal chance to gain the skills, knowledge and capabilities for success in life, learning and work

- High quality education for all children and young people is assured, given the intrinsic value of education, and its role in enabling children and young people to meet their academic and social potential and in ensuring they have options for meaningful work once they leave school
- Children, young people, their families and whānau have a voice and can help shape their learning and skills opportunities
- There is equity in access to quality learning and achievement among children and young people of different socio-economic groups and ethnicities
- All children and young people can take part in a full range of opportunities to develop and express their talents